



# NEWS RELEASE

## Congressman Walter B. Jones

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### JONES JOINS IMMIGRATION REFORM CAUCUS IN HOSTING MINUTEMAN BORDER PATROL PROJECT FOUNDERS AND VOLUNTEERS

*"I can tell you that no matter what others may say, to me and to the people of North Carolina, you are heroes! It is time for the federal government to stop ignoring the influx of illegal immigrants into our country."*

**Washington, D.C.-** In a press conference yesterday afternoon, Third District Representative Walter B. Jones joined other members of the Congressional Immigration Reform Caucus (CIRC) in welcoming Minuteman Project organizers, Chris Simcox and Jim Gilchrist. The Minuteman Project is a grassroots venture that is currently underway along the Arizona-Mexico border. Their mission is to help protect America's borders in a peaceful way by having volunteers sit along the border to prevent illegal migration. They hope to soon expand to New Mexico, California, Texas and elsewhere.

"I can tell you that no matter what others may say, to me and to the people of North Carolina, you are heroes!" Jones said. "It is time for the federal government to stop ignoring the influx of illegal immigrants into our country. There are over 10 million illegal immigrants in this country, most of whom cross the Mexican border at a rate of about 16,000 per week. Although not a border state, my home state of North Carolina ranks 8<sup>th</sup> in the nation for its illegal immigrant population of over 300,000. These kinds of numbers do not come without a price to the American people. It is estimated that illegal immigrants account for *annual* costs of \$4 billion in healthcare, \$7 ½ billion in education, and almost another billion for federal prisons. It is true that we are a nation of immigrants, and that is what makes America great. But for the security and protection of all our citizens, we have to demand that those wanting to come here do so through proper, legal channels. It is time the federal government steps up to the plate to defend our borders so that private citizens like those here today don't have to."

Congressman Jones has been a long-time advocate for immigration reform and border control. Last week, he was named to the U.S. Border Control's "Honor Roll" for his perfect voting record on border and immigration issues. Jones is one of just fifty other members of the 108<sup>th</sup> Congress to receive this distinction.

U.S. Border Control Chairman Edward Nelson presented Jones with a congratulatory letter and certificate. "I commend you for receiving a perfect score of 100% on our 2004 Congressional Scorecard," he said. "Inductees are those Representatives who have distinguished themselves through their votes to secure America's borders against drugs, disease, terrorism, and illegal migration. I thank you for your service to our nation and to your constituents."

**For additional information or to schedule an interview with Congressman Walter B. Jones please contact Kristen Quigley at (202) 225-3415.**